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M. Kinnon	
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HANDLING	
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FILE	

February 13, 1964

Mr. A. M. McKinnon
Director of Public Works
City of Mountain View
Mountain View, California

Dear Mr. McKinnon:

Reference is made to your letter of February 7, 1964, regarding trichloroethylene in sewage discharge.

We have been aware of the potential hazard with respect to trichloroethylene discharge ever since our plant moved into Mountain View, and we have been working very closely with your sewage treatment plant people in regard to the overall problem of sewage discharge.

To my knowledge, the occurrence on January 8, 1964, which you referred to in your letter, was the first instance of this nature since we have operated our facility in Mountain View. We have taken elaborate precautionary measures to prevent discharge of undesirable waste and are maintaining constant vigilance over the system. Apparently there was an undetected failure in our system on January 8. We have taken action not only to repair the system but to improve our controls to prevent a recurrence.

We have no explanation of the occurrence of trichloroethylene in the sewage system on January 16 or February 3, but we would like to remind you that Fairchild is not the only plant in Mountain View which uses this material. This is not to say that it could not possibly have come from our plant--we just don't know. Although one failure is not desirable, the fact that we have had only one such occurrence in approximately five years of operation speaks well for the efficiency of the system.

Again let me say that we are taking action to prevent discharge of unwanted waste into the public sewer.

Very truly yours,

JULIUS BLANK
Manager of Facilities

cc: Mr. John O'Halloran